

Disaster Recovery Center Opening At Mobile Civic Center On Sunday, Sept. 18

MONTGOMERY, AL.—To continue the federal/state partnership helping Gulf Coast storm survivors to recover from the effects of Hurricane Katrina, a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) will open at noon on Sunday, September 18, at the Mobile Civic Center.

The center, staffed by Alabama and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recovery specialists, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan representatives, and representatives of other agencies, has telecommunication and network computer links to assist registrants and provide updated information on applications already filed.

The center will be located at:	Dates:	Hours of Operation
<u>Mobile County</u> Mobile Civic Center 401 Civic Center Drive, Mobile	Sunday, Sept. 18, until further notice.	Opens at noon on Sept. 18. Thereafter, open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Anyone with a disaster-related need may visit any DRC to talk face-to-face with disaster recovery specialists about available programs, including housing assistance, individual and household grants, SBA low-interest loan applications and other disaster-related programs to help cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance, and mitigation steps to reduce potential future losses.

Before visiting any DRC, applicants should first register for assistance by calling toll-free 800-621-FEMA (3362). Individuals with speech or hearing impairments who use special keyboard equipment (TTY) should call 800-462-7585. The lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Registration via the Internet is available on-line at <http://www.fema.gov>.

Applicants are reminded to bring their FEMA registration number and social security number when visiting any DRC. Anyone who has already registered for federal/state disaster assistance is not required to visit a center regarding their application, but is invited to do so for disaster-related information.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages the federal response and recovery efforts following an incident of national significance. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities to reduce the risk of loss in future disasters, trains first responders, workers with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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